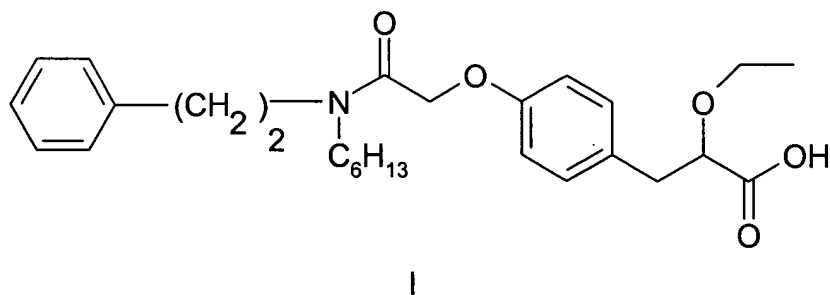


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

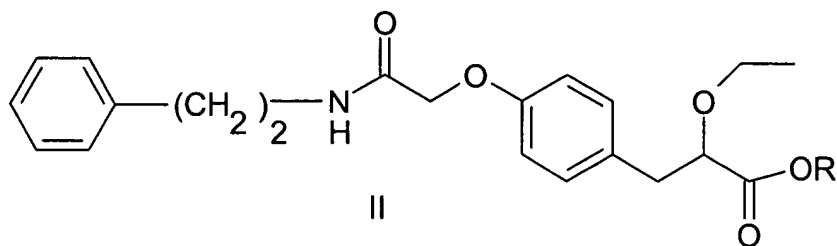
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**

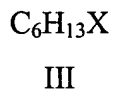
1. (original) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula I



in which a compound of formula II

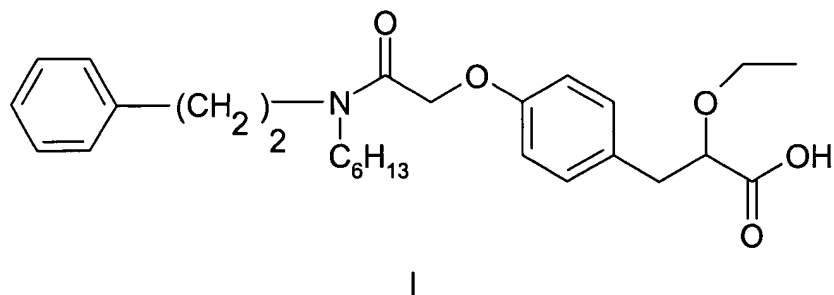


in which R is H or OR represents a protecting group for a carboxylic hydroxy group is reacted with a compound of formula III

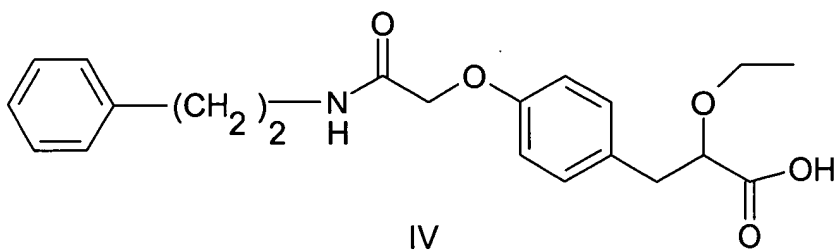


wherein X is a leaving group, in the presence of a base in the presence of an inert solvent at a temperature in the range -25°C to 150°C and optionally, when OR represents a protecting group, removal of the protecting group.

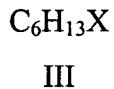
2. (original) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula I



comprising reacting a compound of formula IV

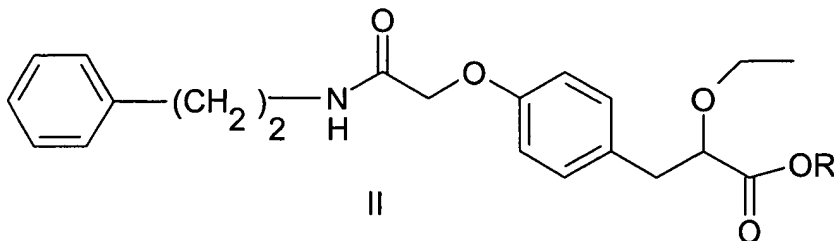


with a compound of formula III



wherein X is a leaving group in the presence of a base in the presence of an inert solvent at a temperature in the range  $-25^{\circ}C$  to  $150^{\circ}C$ .

3. (original) A compound of formula II



in which OR represents a protecting group for a carboxylic hydroxy group.

4. (original) A compound according to claim 3 in which OR represents a  $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy group.

5. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~either claim 3 or 4~~ claim 3 which is the 2S enantiomer.
6. (original) The compound (2*S*)-2-ethoxy-3-(4-{2-oxo-2-[(2-phenylethyl)amino]ethoxy} phenyl)-propanoic acid.
7. (original) A process according to claim 1 to produce the (2*S*) enantiomer of the compound of formula I by using the 2*S* enantiomer of the compound of formula II.
8. (new) A compound according to claim 4 which is the 2*S* enantiomer.